

PATENT

Serial No.: 09/940,805

Docket #: 58880/278

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An integrated decorator coupler for insertion into a bag fabricated to hold filling, comprising:
a hollow ~~tube~~ shaft having a non-decorative opening for receiving filling; and
a decorative tip ~~and a decorative opening, the non-decorative opening shaped to remain within the interior of the bag, extending from and integral with the hollow shaft,~~
wherein the decorative tip has a non-circular ~~the decorative opening designed to extrude filling in a first non-cylindrical decorative shape, wherein the integrated decorator coupler is attachable to a second decorative tip for extruding filling in a second decorative shape.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The integrated decorator coupler of claim 1, wherein the integrated decorator coupler has an externally threaded portion capable of engaging with a retaining nut.
3. (Currently Amended) The integrated decorator coupler of claim 1, wherein the integrated decorator coupler tapers downwardly from the non-decorative opening to the non-circular decorative opening.
4. (Currently Amended) The integrated decorator coupler of claim 1, wherein the integrated decorator coupler has a shoulder to securely seat the integrated decorator coupler in the bag.
5. (Currently Amended) A food decorating assembly comprising:
a flexible bag having ~~an upper end including~~ an upper aperture and ~~a lower end including~~ a lower aperture, the upper aperture sized to receive filling and the lower aperture sized to dispense filling attach to a coupler;

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an integrated decorator coupler having comprising a hollow shaft having a non-decorative opening for receiving filling and a decorative tip extending from and integral with the hollow shaft, wherein the non-circular decorative opening is designed to extrude filling in a first non-cylindrical decorative shape, the integrated decorator coupler insertable into positioned in the bag with the decorative tip decorative opening protruding through the lower aperture of the bag wherein the integrated decorator coupler is attachable to a second decorative tip for extruding filling a second decorative shape; and optionally

a retainer nut devised to engage a secure the second decorative tip to the integrated decorator coupler.

6. (Currently Amended) The food decorating assembly of claim 5, wherein the integrated decorator coupler has an externally threaded portion capable of engaging with the retaining nut.

7. (Currently Amended) The food decorating assembly of claim 5, further comprising ~~at least one~~ the second decorative tip sized to communicate with attachable to the integrated decorator coupler and the retaining nut.

8. (Original) The food decorating assembly of claim 5, wherein the bag comprises plastic or fabric.

9. (Currently Amended) The food decorating assembly of claim 5, wherein the flexible bag is preassembled with an integrated decorator coupler seated at the lower ~~end~~ aperture.

10. (Original) The food decorating assembly of claim 5, wherein the flexible bag is pre-filled with filling.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of decorating food comprising:

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providing filling in a flexible bag, the bag having an upper aperture sized to receive filling and a lower aperture sized to dispense filling, the bag having an integrated decorator coupler protruding through the lower aperture, the integrated decorator coupler having comprising a hollow shaft and a decorative tip defining a non-circular decorative opening extending from and integral with the hollow shaft, the non-circular decorative opening designed to extrude filling in a first non-cylindrical decorative shape, wherein the integrated decorator coupler is attachable to a second decorative tip for extruding filling a second decorative shape; and

providing pressure on the bag to push filling through the non-circular decorative opening ~~decorator coupler~~ and onto the food.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising attaching a second decorator tip to the integrated decorator coupler, the second decorative tip extruding filling in a decorative shape different from that made by the integrated decorator coupler.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the tip is attached by a retaining nut to the integrated decorator coupler, the retaining nut designed to engage the second decorative tip to the integrated decorator coupler.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein a retaining nut secures the second decorator tip to the integrated decorator coupler.

15. (New) The food decorating assembly of claim 5, further comprising the retaining nut.

16. (New) The integrated decorator coupler of claim 1, wherein the decorative tip includes dentate protrusions defining the non-circular decorative opening.

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17. (New) The integrated decorator coupler of claim 5, wherein the decorative tip includes dentate protrusions defining the non-circular decorative opening.
18. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the decorative tip includes dentate protrusions defining the non-circular decorative opening.
19. (New) The integrated decorator coupler of claim 16, wherein the non-circular opening is star-shaped.
20. (New) The integrated decorator coupler of claim 17, wherein the non-circular opening is star-shaped.